

NEW SOUTH WALES AUSTRALIA



Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas



A. B. WADSWORTH
Commissioner

PUBLIC OPINION



IRRIGATION FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES—AUSTRALIA.

—THE GREAT— MURRUMBIDGEE SCHEME.

Soils eminently suited for

Orchardist, Viticulturist, Dairyman, Fat Lamb
Raiser, Pig Farmer, Ostrich Farmer, Vegetable
Grower, Poultryman, Tobacco Grower, or Bee Farmer.
LIBERAL and PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE to Settlers
on **EASY TERMS.**

**Cheap
Land**

**Fertile
Land**

**Cheap
Water**

**Ample
Water**

Homesteads and Farm Buildings erected or material supplied—
Head Ditches and Agricultural Work, required to permanently
grade the Farm, carried out—Trees and Vines, true to name, and
free from disease, available for purchase from the Commissioner's
Nursery—Lucerne (Alfalfa) Seed supplied—Specially-selected Dairy
Stock obtainable—Pedigree Stock may be hired—Railway Con-
cessions on New South Wales Railways—Instruction given by
Experts in up-to-date methods of Irrigation, Agriculture, Dairying,
Fruit or Vegetable Canning, &c., &c.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES WORTH NOTING.

The whole scheme is administered by the State Government,
and the products carried to market on **Government-owned railways.**

Instruction and demonstration in Agricultural and Irrigation
methods always available, **free of cost to the Settler**, by experts
employed by the State.

The climate of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas is unsur-
passed for the health of the individual and the growth of stock and
plant life.

Water being supplied solely by gravitation only costs the
remarkably cheap rate of 5s. (81.25) per acre-foot. Even this rate
is reduced one-half during the first year, being then increased
yearly by 6d. (12c.) per acre-foot, until in the sixth and subsequent
years the full rate is chargeable.

A Butter Factory, capable of treating the product of 10,000
cows, has been provided; also a Canning Factory; and Cheese and
Bacon Factories are now under construction.

Schools, Churches, Bank, and Stores are established.

**Farms with suspension of residence are granted or prepared on
certain conditions.**

Full information on every point, special pamphlets on Dairying,
Fruit Growing, Poultry Farming, Suspension of Residence Farms,
details of necessary expenditure, &c., may be obtained from

THE SECRETARY,

Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission,

Branch "E," 29 Elizabeth-street, Sydney.

THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

of Immigration for New South Wales and Victoria,

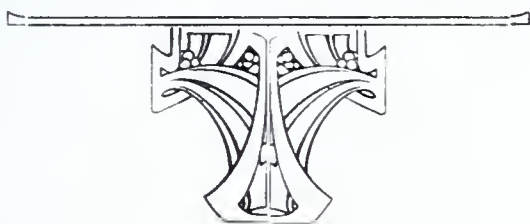
Melbourne Place, The Strand, London, W.C.

THE TRADE AND IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER for N.S.W.,

Monadock Buildings, 673 Market-street, San Francisco, U.S.A.

IRRIGATION - - IN - - AUSTRALIA.

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE
PROVIDES
ANOTHER CALIFORNIA.



Public Opinion on the Great
"MURRUMBIDGEE" PROJECT.

SYDNEY :
W A. GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1915.



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FOREWORD.

A PROPOSITION which has behind it the whole of the people of a State—in other words the Government—should not require much in the way of independent and disinterested evidence to establish its merits. However, as the independent word often counts when the official one does not, it has been thought desirable to publish a few of the views which persons, entitled to speak, have expressed on the “Murrumbidgee” proposition. It is thought that these opinions will amply satisfy. Convincing too will be the statements of the men who are actually in possession of farms, and working them, enjoying all the benefits so freely offered by the State.

For more detailed information in regard to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation (Burrinjuck) Scheme, the readers of this booklet should refer to the pamphlet “Facts,” and to that containing General Information in regard to the scheme. These are procurable at all places where “Public Opinion” is issued.

MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION AREAS.

Public Opinion.

AN AMERICAN FEELS HAPPY—SO DOES HIS INDIANA WIFE.

PRIOR to coming here I was working for the Pacific Electric Railway Company at San Bernardino, Cal. I was in that company for seven years. Previous to that I had been irrigating for a number of years in Colorado. I was induced to come here by a lecture given in San Bernardino by Mr. N. Nielsen, Commissioner for New South Wales in U.S.A. I was looking for land, and as the inducement seemed good, I decided to come.

I had about £350 (\$1,750) when I landed at Yanco, and that has just about been sufficient to get through on. I could have well used more, but I think with care a man can come through on that.

The assistance I have had has amounted to comparatively little. I should say £100 (\$500) all told. I maintain that £350 (\$1,750) or £400 (\$2,000) should see a man through.

I have been here about two years and three months.

The first year I did little. I arrived late, but got in about 20 acres of oats, which I stripped and fed to stock.

The next year I got 40 acres of wheat and oats, that brought in £250 (\$1,250) plus what I kept for farm use. I have 8 acres of lucerne, which netted me about £36 (\$180) clear money. I have 2 acres of orchard, and I intend to put in 5 acres of oranges, 5 of lemons, and 5 of peaches this autumn.

This season I hope to clear at least £400 (\$2,000) with hay crops (lucerne, wheat, and oats) as prices are high.* After this year my line will be lucerne and maize (for hog-raising) and fruit-trees.

I am perfectly satisfied that this will make as fine a country as man ever lived in. I have never seen two climates more alike than this and Southern California, and I do not see why as fine fruit cannot be raised here as there—in fact, I think it will be a great place for fruit. It is a whole lot nicer place than I figured on, or expected to see. Our neighbours have treated us awful nice, nothing could be better, and I am quite satisfied to make a home here for the rest of my days. My wife is an Indiana girl; she is also well satisfied; gets the best of health and is quite happy and contented.

17/10/'14.

GRANT HELTON.

ANOTHER AMERICAN SETTLER IS DOING WELL.

I, THE undersigned resident of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, personally acquainted with the scheme and its possibilities, believe the scheme to be thoroughly reliable, and that those who may take up land on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas will receive honest, liberal, and courteous treatment. In my opinion, the areas abound in genuine opportunities. Here it is that every man with rich red blood in his veins, ambition, and determination finds his chance to achieve something to gain true independence.

I came to Yanco Irrigation Area from Highland, San Bernardino county, U.S.A., in May, 1913. As an experienced irrigator and orchardist for about ten years in one of the finest citrus-growing countries in California I can thus speak from personal observation, both of fruit-growing and irrigation. It gives me real pleasure to say that the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme is the best I have seen in the world.

I have been a settler at Leeton now for about eighteen months on 50 acres of very rich soils. My income from the land was £350 (\$1,750) the first twelve months and next twelve months I have prospect of making an income of from £600 (\$3,000) to £1,000 (\$5,000). My objective here is citrus-growing principally. I have 20,000 citrus seed-bed stock, which I intend to bud to orange and lemon. In the meantime I have 18 acres of orchard, mostly deciduous trees, as a pot-boiler. I have about 20,000 peach and apricot trees for sale in 1915. In 1914 I sold about 8,000 fruit trees and dormant buds, and I have now 40 tons of hay to sell, which is worth £6 (\$30) per ton on the farm, and I am just planting 18 acres of maize for seed which will be ready for market within four months, then I intend to put in another hay crop of wheat in 25 acres.

I am doing very well and pleased to be a settler on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.

N. C. NIELSEN,

November, 1914.

Farm 21, Leeton.

A SCOTCHMAN BURNS HIS BOATS BEHIND HIM, BUT REMAINS CONTENT.

I CAME to the Area some months ago from Scotland, on representations made by the Commissioner's Officer there. I had only had a little previous farming experience, my business in Scotland being a commercial one. I found that what I was told by the Agent in Scotland was more than borne out by the conditions here; the official pamphlets were not in any way misleading—in fact, they rather understated the case as far as I can see after my five months' experience.

Compared to conditions in Scotland, the assistance given to settlers is simply marvellous, and the rents and rates remarkably reasonable. The water supply is all that could be desired. I have had two waterings this season, and they have more than satisfied me.

To sum it up, as far as I can judge, we have the land, we have the water, and we have a climate that will simply grow anything.

Everything that one could desire in the old country, so far as schooling facilities are concerned, has been provided here, and the health of the children since our arrival has been perfect. My wife agrees with me in all that I have said.

For a young community the social life was a revelation to me, not only as regards the good type of people met with, but in the sociability and kindness to one another. When I asked a man a question, whether he was a settler or an official, it was all the same. Everyone appeared to take more interest in the point I put than in their own business. That has been my universal experience.

My main object on the block will be fruit-growing and vegetable-growing for the Government cannery, which has just been built. In the meantime I am "keeping the pot boiling" with cows and pigs, and I have found that the results amply verify anything I expected before I left the Old Country.

I "burnt my boats behind me" when I came to the Areas, but I have no regrets.

G. ROBERT KIRK,

Late of Newport, Scotland.

April, 1914.

THE COW IS HARD TO BEAT AFTER ALL.

I COMMENCED operations about two years ago. I had made up my mind previously that dairying was the best means—in fact, the only means—for a poor man to get properly going on a farm here, so I started right away as a dairyman. I had about £350 (\$1,750) in plant, stock, and cash, and I have done most of my own work. I had very little assistance from the Commissioner. In addition to the house, which was built for me on the usual terms, I think about £7 (\$35) for head ditching practically sums it all up.

I got a fair return from dairying right from the start. My first month's cheque was about £7 (\$35), and since then it has gradually increased until at the present time I am milking about twenty cows and averaging £1 (\$5) per cow per month. In addition I have had returns from pigs, and the meat from steer calves has also been a big help. Given a man with sufficient foresight to keep his food well up to the cows, there is no reason why with a fair herd an average of £1 (\$5) per cow per month could not be maintained. Of course,

gradually the herd can be culled, and I have lost no opportunity in doing this. My returns have been so satisfactory that I am quite prepared to continue on with dairying and pigs. I have planted a little orchard and will gradually increase the area if I find it pays me better than dairying.

One profitable side-line to me has been poultry, particularly turkeys. Mrs. Power has looked after this part of the business, and last season she never got less than 10s. (\$2.50) each for gobblers. Given a free run on a patch of lucerne they practically look after themselves and are little trouble or expense.

I am satisfied that if a man is a hard conscientious worker and takes to dairying straight away he can pull through on £300 (\$1,500) capital to start with, but, of course, it is foolish for any man to commence dairying before he has his farm prepared and feed well in sight. £300 (\$1,500) should, however, be sufficient to tide him over his initial difficulties until he can start dairying with fair prospects of success.

D. POWER.

October, 1914.

A CALIFORNIAN CITRUS GROWER IS ENTHUSIASTIC AT THE OUTSET—

As a recent comer to this district, I would like to offer a word of appreciation in regard to the wonderful facilities which are being offered to settlers in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.

My brother wrote to me to Japan and induced me to pay a visit to the district, and on arrival I find conditions even better than he had described them, especially for citrus and deciduous fruit-growing.

Some years ago I had over six years' experience in growing citrus fruits in Southern California, but gave it up on account of the difficulties at that time experienced in obtaining a fair return on the amount of capital required.

Knowing the cost of land suitable for fruit-growing, cost of water, and other necessities in that country, and comparing them with what you are offering settlers here, it appears to me to be the most wonderful opportunity of this kind ever offered to the people.

I have decided to settle here, and trust to make a success of fruit-growing, especially of citrus fruits, for which there is a good market, not only in Australia, but in all parts of the world.

Trusting you will excuse any informality in addressing you,

I am, &c.,

ROSS REID.

April, 1914.

AND HE REMAINS SO AFTER SEVEN MONTHS' SOJOURN.

I CAME here with a knowledge of irrigation in America, and the conditions I found on the Areas struck me as being extraordinarily generous to settlers as compared with similar country in Southern California in the neighbourhood of Redlands and San Bernardino. The climate, if anything, is hardly as good here as there, but it is very similar. We have a bigger rainfall, but here it is a little colder and a little hotter. San Bernardino is, of course, fairly close to the coast. Further inland, on a typical Californian irrigation project, I think the climate is hotter than it is here, but I cannot speak from personal experience.

Our land is infinitely cheaper than Californian land. Similar soil to that which I have on this block, without any trees on it, would be worth in California at least £100 (\$500) per acre. Here my rental is about 10s. 6d. per acre, less than \$3 per acre per annum. On a twenty-one years' purchase lease basis that would represent a capital value of about £11 (\$55) per acre. Of course, the title is leasehold in perpetuity, but personally I would sooner pay the light rental of 11s. (\$2.75) per acre, and have my own capital to work with than I would lock my capital up in freehold. What I mean is that my capital for working is worth much more to me than the small percentage which the farm rental represents. I can make the money return a much higher percentage of interest in other ways.

The water supply is as good as anywhere in the world, and it is infinitely cheaper than a similar supply would be in California. I do not know the exact figures there; they vary on different projects. Here it is only 5s. (\$1.25) per acre per annum, which means that 10s. (\$2.50) per acre is sufficient to water citrus trees, whereas in California the cost would run from £2 (\$10) to £3 (\$15) per acre for citrus trees.

My objective here is citrus-growing principally, and if prices continue as they are at present I would not look further than Australia for my market. Should prices drop locally I have no doubt that very remunerative returns would be obtained from exporting to the Eastern Coast of the United States, and probably the Western Coast of Canada. From my experience I feel that it is a fair assumption that we will get good prices for our oranges in both of these markets, seeing that we can land them there in the middle of the American summer when home-grown oranges are scarce. The quality of the Washington Navels and the Late Valencia and other first-class varieties which are being so largely planted will be equal to anything in the world.

Finally, I may say that I have no "kiek" whatever coming about the way I am doing.

October, 1914.

ROSS REID.

A WORD ABOUT THE HOUSES BUILT BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SETTLERS.

The Officer-in-Charge, Building Branch,
Irrigation Commission, Leeton.

Dear Sir,

Mr. McIntyre called yesterday and asked me to write to you stating that I have occupied the house built for me by the Commissioner. This I have pleasure in doing, the more so as nine months' sojourn in camp makes the change into a house a decidedly forward movement.

I would also like to thank you for the uniform kindness and courtesy always extended to me, and trust that all the tenants are as satisfied with the work superintended by you as I am.

Yours faithfully,

August, 1913.

JAS. WALLACE.

The Officer-in-Charge, Building Branch,
Irrigation Commission, Leeton.

Sir,

I have taken possession this day of the commodious cottage that you just finished building for me, and my wife and myself are highly pleased with it.

And, sir, permit me on behalf of my wife and myself to thank you sincerely for building it for us to suit our special requirements due to old age.

Yours faithfully,

June, 1913.

MICHAEL J. CARTLAN.

HARD WORK WINS THROUGH.

I CAME here from the Macleay River, where I had been farming all my life. I saw the scheme advertised and, after a conversation with a friend of mine who knew the district very well under dry conditions, I decided to come and have a look at it. I was one of the earliest settlers on the area, and, after full consideration, decided to take up a block.

I had to wait some months in order to sell out my lease on the Macleay River and then I had to sacrifice my stock and plant in order to get away. I only realised £100 (\$500) for plant worth about £280 (\$1,400). On top of that I had the misfortune to lose two valuable horses. Altogether I do not think I had much more than £100 (\$500) actual capital when I commenced operations here.

The block was very heavily timbered, but the soil was excellent. I had two sons to assist me, and together we cleared several acres and planted whatever crops we could get in. The first year I only cleared about £50 (\$250), mainly out of potatoes, cauliflowers, and cabbages. Last year I went on with the clearing and cropped about 20 acres. I reckon I took £250 (\$1,250) off the block, including the value of some timber which I sold. My main lines were maize, onions, melons, and pumpkins, potatoes, and tomatoes. I have not gone in for dairying or pig-raising. I keep a couple of cows and a pig or two for my own use, feeding them on a little patch of lucerne, less than an acre in extent.

Poultry has been the standby for family use, but I have sold very few eggs. At the present time I have about 8 acres planted out with citrus trees, 10 acres with stone fruits, and 2 acres of vines. This year I hope to put about 40 acres under crops of various kinds, and I expect to make £500 (\$2,500) on the season's work, as I will have double the acreage I had last year.

Onions, potatoes, maize, pumpkins, and other vegetables, such as peas and cucumbers, with tomatoes, will be my main crops again.

I have never regretted coming to the area, and I feel quite confident as to my future prospects.

P. GERSBACH,
Farm No. 330.

October, 1914.

OLD AGE NO BAR TO PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS.

WE have been here about two years—one of my boys being on the land all the time and another one part of the time. We have about £475 (\$2,375) when we commenced, and out of that I paid £100 (\$500) deposit on my house; we have paid cash for all our ten cows and bought for cash all the farm implements, vehicles, &c., and also paid £70 (\$350) for horses. We still have a little in the bank, although we pay cash for our goods as we go, but I consider, taking all the Commissioner's terms, £500 (\$2,500) should easily see a man through. I have had a lot of experience at Mildura, and if I were twenty years younger I would be quite satisfied to start again on that. I am 61 next birthday, and have been without my husband for nineteen years.

Our idea has been to make an orchard and keep cows only till the orchard came into bearing. This means constant going, but it can be done. After our experience I consider the prospects very good, especially for a young man. Here we have not had anything like the hardships of the Mildura pioneers—really I think settlers get, if anything, too much help and assistance.

We have 16 acres of fruit, currants, sultanas, peaches, and apricots, all doing well. I have been using old McCaughey lucerne,* but next year we intend to plough it up and re-sow.
October, 1914.

* The " McCaughey " lucerne here mentioned refers to lucerne planted before the lands were acquired from Sir Samuel McCaughey, one of the first to foresee the possibilities of irrigation in this district.

NOTE.—The name in this case is omitted at the request of the signatory.

GRIT TELLS.

BEFORE coming here I was shearing and droving. I have been doing other work amongst stock since boyhood. I had about £900 (\$4,500), and although it is not all gone by any means I have spent a considerable amount, as I have made a point of paying cash for everything. The only creditor I have is the Commissioner, to whom I owe about £80 (\$400) or £90 (\$450).

If it had not been for my leg I would not have had a hard fight at all, but I have been a cripple ever since I have been here, and now I have to contemplate an operation to have the leg taken off.

I have done all my own work and at present have 2 acres citrus, some of which, although only 2 years old, are blossoming; 9 acres stone fruits, 1½ acres potatoes, 1½ onions. I also have 14½ acres of lucerne, now a good stand; just about 20 acres Zealand wheat, which will average fully 2½ tons of chaff to the acre.

I came here about the beginning of February, 1913. I had to clear the block and it was October before I got any return. Then I got some peas, which were a good crop. I had 35 acres of hay, which gave me 65 tons. This brought me in about £130 (\$650) or £140 (\$700). I also sold about 2 tons of potatoes for £16 (\$80), and I suppose I made £10 (\$50) in other ways. This year I hope to get £200 (\$1,000). I am not over-estimating—my figures are on the small side—and next year the return should be the same. I hope I will be able to carry on; if it were not for my misfortune I would have no doubt whatever of being able to do this and keep the orchard going as it is now—in good condition.

The following year I should get a return from the stone fruit, and then I will be round the corner. Even if I lose my leg I shall still be able to do some of the work, such as sowing, and the block will keep a man to do other manual labour.

G. A. GUYTHER

October, 1914.

A NEW-CHUM SETTLER—EXCHANGES MINING FOR FARMING.

I CAME here with only a little previous experience in farming work. I have been a mining engineer practically all my life, and for a considerable time past my work has been in the great copper-mining district of Cobar. You often find that a man connected with mining has a hankering to get on the land. I do not think I have made any mistake in coming to the area, but I have certainly found the capital expenditure more than I anticipated. However, I fully expect to get everything back that I have expended on the farm.

Owing to the war and financial depression, things at Cobar are very bad, and men who until recently were earning their £500 (\$2,500) and £600 (\$3,000) a year in connection with the mines are now reduced to the position of watchmen; or in many cases they are looking for a job. Personally, my lot would have been the same, but I am thankful I had the farm to come to. I think I was the most envied man in Cobar the other day when I finally left to take up my block. In reply to the question so often asked—"What are you going to do"? I was able to say, "I am going home to the farm." You cannot imagine what satisfaction it gave me to be able to say that.

I suppose, altogether, I have laid out £1,500 (\$7,500) here. Clearing and grading took a considerable amount, and the erection of the residence—which is a very nice one—as well as the farm buildings and fencing also ran into a considerable amount. Then I have trellised several acres of grape-vines. This is another expensive item. Again, being engaged at Cobar, I had to employ labour while I was absent myself.

I have some excellent soil—in fact, some of the poorer quality is better than I thought it was. I tried the experiment of planting a wheat crop in it, and it is giving me 2 tons to the acre return. As far as the water supply is concerned, it is quite satisfactory. I have no complaint whatever to make. The climate and conditions of life are very good indeed. As before remarked, I have spent the greater part of my life at Cobar, and this is heaven compared to that. My family has been here now two and a half years, and during the whole of that time the health of my wife and children has been excellent—the children, in fact, have never been better.

C. D. DURUZ.

October, 1914.

A START ON SMALL CAPITAL.

I CAME on the farm on 15th July, 1913. My capital was from £200 (\$1,000) to £300 (\$1,500). My son and self got hard at it. Early morn and late at night, and by 2nd August we had 20 acres of oats in. On 10th January, 1914, I started to strip, and got 108 bags from the crop; also I harvested 1 ton early potatoes. The oats were sold to the Commissioner, and they gave me a bit of a lift. I then grew 2 acres of broom millet, which realised 12 cwt. at £33 (\$165) per ton, and also 10 tons pumpkins to feed my pigs. Some of these I sold to my neighbours, but I have no accounts.

There is a good thing in pigs here. I have received for bacon 6d. (12c.) per lb. from Barnes & Co., Liverpool-street, Sydney; carriage $\frac{1}{2}$ d (1c.) per lb. Turkeys are also a good proposition. Since starting I have made £11 (\$55) out of millet seed, oats, £4 (\$20); my crop at present is sold for £230 (\$1,150).

I have also reared a good lot of poultry.

The climate is an ideal one, and I might here state that I have found the officials most courteous and obliging. Any advice required is cheerfully given. My farm is now well improved, although my capital was small, and it was a hard fight for a while, but now I am on the way to prosperity.

W. ACKROYD,

October, 1914.

Farm 477.

AS TO CLIMATE, CAPITAL, AND CAPACITY TO WORK.

PREVIOUS to my coming to the Area I was dairy-farming in Palmerston North district in New Zealand, at Shannon on the Manawatu River. The area was brought under my notice by my brother, a resident of Sydney, while I was on a visit to this State. I came here, and was so impressed with the possibilities of the scheme that I decided to sell out in New Zealand and take up a block. I am a dairyman pure and simple, and I have never regretted my decision, although, being somewhat short of capital, I have had a hard struggle to get through. I came here with £300 (\$1,500) only, and I do not know of any other place in the world where a man could make a successful start in a large way on that amount. I have had no trouble whatever in getting feed, but, of course, I have not overstocked. If a man looks ahead on these areas he should never be in trouble as far as fodder is concerned.

On a 50-acre irrigable block with an attached dry area a man should easily milk from thirty to forty cows all the year round.

The progress that has been made is something wonderful—one wants to see it to be able to realise it. For ten months in the year the climate is perfect, and, although there are a couple of hot months, there are nice, cool changes even in the middle of summer. No climate is perfect, but I think that of the Area is as near as one could hope to find.

I think a man wants at least £400 (\$2,000) to start, even with the assistance given by the Commission. With that amount and a willingness to work hard, this area, in my opinion, holds out better prospects for the man with small capital than any other district I have ever come across.

As far as the officials are concerned, I have no fault to find with them, and I do not see how any man could. They give settlers the greatest consideration, and, in fact, in some cases I think they are a little too good, with the result that settlers expect too much.

J. H. PATTERSON.

October, 1914.

•Farm 469.

A SETTLER LEAVES, BUT WITH REGRET.

Dear Sir,

Owing chiefly to the state of my wife's health, I have been compelled to dispose of my block, and before leaving wish to convey to you and your staff my sincere thanks and appreciation of the kindness extended to me at all times when it has been my pleasure to be doing business with your departments.

I trust, and feel sure, that there is a splendid future in front of the Area, and, with capital, good work, time, and patience, it will ultimately develop into one of the finest settlements that all Australians will be proud of.

Again thanking you, with kindest regards,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

NORMAN E. LEIGHTON.

THE POOR MAN'S CHANCE—FROM CITY TO FARM.

I CAME here last August twelve months. I had had absolutely no experience as a farmer, having been previously thirteen years in the Government tramways, and before that in various warehouses. The conditions of settlement appealed to me as the best chance of a poor man getting on the land and, generally, I am still of the same opinion. I have no wish to return to city life.

My experience has not been a perfect success. I have had difficulties. The work was hard. I got a set-back with my oats owing to late planting and missing the watering. The causes reflect no discredit on the Area, and I am satisfied that the place is all it has been made out to be.

At present I have 11 acres of Japanese millet and 18 of amber cane, which will provide plenty of cow feed for my cows—purchased on the Commissioner's generous terms—which allows of my making a little each month, in addition to paying the cost off by instalments. As I can I will plant lucerne as the ground becomes better worked. I intend to drop the dairying and get on to fruit, lucerne, and bees. I think there is good money in bees. I got 40 lb. from one swarm last season, although they were only obtained in February. I reckon, at a low estimate, a man should make here £1 (\$5) per hive per annum; may be considerably more. I have had a lot of experience with bees. Lucerne for pigs is, I think, a real good thing, and fruit will no doubt also be excellent. Vegetables I also intend to go in for, the local market and cannery being the objective.

When I came here I did not have £300 (\$1,500). If a man has that amount, exercises care, takes full advantage of the terms afforded by the Commissioner, and *gets a few cows straightaway when he has feed*, he can pull through. This last, the cows, is the crux of the whole matter.

I would have saved money had I done that when I commenced.

H. S. CLARK.

November, 1914.

THE YOUNG MAN'S CHANCE—A RESTING-PLACE AFTER A 3,000-MILES SEARCH.

I HAVE seen the San Joaquin Valley, San Mateo, San Jose, and different other irrigation centres along the Pacific Coast, and taking into consideration the present value of land there, the amount of money required to start a place going, and the conditions generally, I consider this proposition (Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme) from a financial point of view is far ahead of them for the young man wanting to get a start.

I have been looking for land all over New South Wales. I have been going from place to place for months, my total mileage "on the hunt" has been 3,000 miles, and I am satisfied that there is no necessity to look farther than Yanco.

I have decided to put in a few months with a practical irrigationist on the areas. I had no difficulty making my own arrangements in that regard. After that I intend to take up a block, and

as new sections of first-class land are being thrown open from time to time, I feel sure that there will be no difficulty in obtaining a suitable block without undue delay, although there is something of a rush for land just at present.

My farm I intend to devote to citrus culture, lamb raising on lucerne, and cotton growing. As regards the first two, the preliminary work has been done, and there is now no room for doubt as to the success of either business.

Cotton-growing has to be experimented with, but the settler I am at present with has at my suggestion put in some cotton this season. The labour difficulty will have to be overcome, but I think the industry will pay white man's wages and still show a good margin of profit. Of course that remains to be proved.

A. MANN.

November, 1914.

POULTRY PAYS.

I CAME here twelve months ago next month. I was put on to the scheme by a friend who is well up in agricultural matters and believed that the opportunities offered for poultry-farming were as good here as could be got anywhere. I have every reason to believe that his opinion was correct. At present I have, roughly speaking, 300 fowls; their health is without exception excellent. I am able to grow all their feed (lucerne, wheat, oats, maize) except bran and pollard, and that I could grow, but it is just a question whether it will pay me to cut for hay or strip for grain. All depends on the price. Lucerne is, of course, a great standby to the poultry-farmer.

I do not anticipate any great disadvantage in being so far from the metropolis, as the cheapness with which I can produce my feed will make up for any extra freight.

To make a start in a big way as a poultry-farmer here a man wants I think £500 (\$2,500). He can start in a small way with less, especially on these areas. I have no doubts as to my success. I hope to carry 1,000 head very shortly, and in time a much larger flock than that.

The hot weather in summer does not seem to affect egg production in any way, and for nine months in the year the climate is perfect for bird and beast.

RICHARD H. STEWART.

November, 1914.

Leaving the settlers, whose expressions of satisfaction might be continued ad infinitum, let us consider what other people, qualified to speak, have to say about the "Murrumbidgee":—

A VISITING EXPERT IN DAIRYING PRAISES YANCO.

IN regard to the recent visit which I made to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area at Yanco, I was greatly impressed with the work already accomplished; also with the vast area of rich land eminently suitable for irrigation which has still to be developed and made ready for intending settlers. I consider that the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme is admirably adapted to—firstly, dairy-farming and pig-raising; secondly, fruit-growing; thirdly, the raising of lucerne crops and ostrich-farming. I am strongly of the opinion that intending settlers, when selecting a block of land, should thoroughly make up their minds as to what class of farming they wish to pursue. If dairying, then I consider it is absolutely essential that a certain portion of dry land should be as conveniently as possible attached to the irrigable area. The allotting of dry areas in a convenient position to irrigable plots is not always an easy matter; on the other hand, if a settler selects his ground solely for dairying purposes in what one might call the centre of a chessboard, he has only himself to blame if no dry land is available. To those settlers who start with a limited capital dairying should be their first objective, as by so doing they are in a position to reap an almost immediate return, and thus provide for the necessities of life during the first year or so of occupation. To bring this laudable and great irrigation scheme to a successful issue, much depends on the class of settler available, and the amount of capital he possesses.

Personally, I think the man with a fairly large family (having regard to the scarcity of labour) will be the most successful, and I also hold a very strong opinion that intending settlers should not have less capital than £500 (\$2,500) to start with, and still better, if £1,000 (\$5,000) was available.

E. O. CHALLIS,

Superintendent of Dairying,

January, 1914.

South Africa.

NOTE.—While not wishing to challenge the opinion of Mr. Challis as to the amount of capital required, the Commissioner for Water Conservation and Irrigation considers that it is the man who counts. Some settlers will do, and have done, well on less capital than £500; others will not do well on even more than £500.

SIR RIDER HAGGARD, EMINENT ENGLISH AUTHOR AND AGRICULTURIST, SPEAKS OF THE QUALITY OF THE LAND.

Sir Rider Haggard, who visited the areas as a member of the Dominions Royal Commission, when addressing settlers during the year 1913, spoke in the following terms:—

I WANT to say a few words as to what a neighbourhood you have. I have been for miles round the Experiment Farm, and I have seen many of the blocks of land which have been taken up, and I can only tell you that I, who have had had some experience in these matters, and have studied the development of many lands, temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical, have never seen, I think, more beautiful land, or land which responds more quickly to any reasonable treatment or sufficient supply of water. You are blessed with a wonderful situation. You are fortunate in having a Government that is helping you in every way in regard to buildings, the terms on which you take up the land, and in the provision of water, and I am sure it only rests with yourselves to make a success of your residence here as farmers.

AMERICAN TRADE COMMISSIONER'S OPINION—HE VIEWS FAVOURABLY CONTROL OF THE IRRIGA- TION PROJECT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

SPEAKING to a *Daily Telegraph* representative on what had been seen at Burrinjuck and Yanco, Dr. Snowden, one of the American Trade Commission, said that they were not quite prepared to see such an extensive scheme of development. The great future of the New South Wales project was that it was under State control, whereas in America up to the present time fully £100,000,000 had been expended in irrigation projects, mostly under private enterprise. The result had been that there had been serious disputes between the settlers and the companies on account of a misunderstanding of the conditions. "For instance," said Dr. Snowden, "some of the settlers had invested all their moneys in these private schemes, only to find that the companies were insufficiently financed or improperly managed. Recourse to the courts had been slow of results. In other cases disputes had arisen over water rights, payments, and so forth, and the net result had been that a few badly-conducted schemes had brought the business into disrepute, and the tendency had been to frighten away the prospective settlers, or discourage those who had already gone in for irrigation. Of course, it was true that many of the projects had been very

successful, but the trouble was that speculators had given the whole business rather a bad name. The advantage of State control for irrigation schemes seems apparent to anyone who has compared the two systems close at hand."

The visitor added that the party was particularly struck with the great variety of crops, some of a tropical nature, which were raised on the irrigated areas. This appeared to be an insurance against the failure which might result from concentrating on one or two varieties only, and another advantage which the settler had was the fact that the Government Experiment Station was close at hand for practical demonstration and expert advice. In these great enterprises Australia was investing good money for the future, and would not only develop vast areas of otherwise unprofitable regions, but in time make it possible for the State to sustain an enormous population. There was also a great opportunity here for the English or American immigrant to engage in a profitable enterprise with the Government at his back.

May, 1914.

A HIGH STATE AGRICULTURAL AUTHORITY FINDS MURRUMBIDGEE ALL HE EXPECTED.

WHEN the above-mentioned scheme was first mooted I expressed the opinion that the area which it was proposed to irrigate was eminently suitable for the purpose, and that I expected it would be found very satisfactory for raising a large variety of crops.

Experiments since carried out at this Department's Experimental Farm situated on the area at Yanco and on the experiment plots established by our inspectors on private farms on the area have confirmed this opinion, most satisfactory results having been obtained from fruit-growing, dairying, green fodder crops, hay, maize, potatoes, &c. In fact, it has proved that such a variety of crops can be raised that there is no difficulty in keeping up a continual supply of stock foods, whereby milk, meat, and other products can be produced at a very reasonable cost.

I am of opinion that at the present time there is no better place in New South Wales on which a man with a small capital who is desirous of engaging in mixed-farming (fruit-growing, crop production, and dairying) could start.

GEORGE VALDER,

Under-Secretary and Director, Department of Agriculture, New
South Wales.

November, 1914.

EARL GREY'S OPINION—"A COLOSSAL WORK!"

"I SAW the Burrinjuck Dam, a colossal work, which is a magnificent tribute to the energy of your people. But I was very sorry not to see the land which the waters held up by it will irrigate, namely, the Yanco settlement, where men can obtain land, through the generosity of the Government, at a price, so far as I have been able to form an estimate, far below its intrinsic value. Remember that there is only a limited amount of land in the whole world where you can harness the sunshine and water in just the right proportions to fat alluvial soil. Wherever you have this blessed combination, as I understand you have in the Yanco district, you have a treasure-house waiting to yield up immeasurable wealth to the industry of man. Although I have not seen Yanco, all I have heard of it leads me to believe that hardly any country can offer to poor and hard-working humanity better conditions and prospects than are waiting for him there."

April, 1914.

DAIRYING AGAIN—GOVERNMENT EXPERTS' SUMMINGS UP.

Mr. O'Callaghan, Dairy Expert, Department of Agriculture, says:—

DAIRYING should be the main factor in the future welfare of the great bulk of the farmers who occupy land on the irrigation area in the neighbourhood of Yanco. I know of no better proposition for the young dairy-farmer of limited means than that which has been, and is still being, offered by the State in connection with the settlement of the lands on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas. I have recently made a close inspection of a representative part of this area, and am now convinced that under fair management a good income can be made there by dairy-farming.

In September, 1913, a number of dairy-farmers from different districts in New South Wales, together with the Departmental dairy instructors who are stationed in different parts of the State, visited the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas. Each dairy instructor was asked to put in writing his impressions of the irrigation area, and short extracts from each will show the trend of their opinion.

Mr. Ballhausen, Dairy Instructor on the Richmond River:—

Having for some years been intimately associated with dairying conditions on both the South and North Coasts, and knowing what an element of uncertainty the question of profit to the average tenant-farmer is, owing to the, in very many cases, excessively high rentals, to

the uncertainty of the rainfall at the right period of the year, and frequently to the poor response to rain by failing pastures, and bearing these matters in mind and looking at Yanco as it is to-day, with its comparatively cheap rentals, certainty of returns, luxuriant natural winter pasture, ample provision for summer fodder, and agreeable conditions of living, there is, in my mind, no more sound dairying proposition.

Mr. F. Wigan, who has had experience as a dairy-farmer, and who knows New South Wales intimately:—

A farm on this area as a proposition for dairying appeals to me as excellent. Knowing the whole of the coastal areas very thoroughly from visiting many of the farms right along from the Tweed River to Bega, and comparing these with what I saw at Yanco, I am satisfied that Yanco does not suffer by comparison. I would advise those men paying high rentals, and sometimes on short leases, to inspect Yanco as soon as they can. The irrigable land is capable of producing large quantities of green fodder, lucerne, &c., while the non-irrigable areas at certain periods of the year are thickly covered with herbage and grasses.

Mr. Matthew Wallace, Dairy Instructor, Bega district:—

As a dairying proposition few places offer such advantages as Yanco. All round the district the cattle were in splendid condition, and this on the natural winter herbage, without irrigation. One of the principal advantages the district offers is that abundance of feed can be grown in the dry summer months by irrigation. To the settler who desires an early return for his labour, there is perhaps no other way in which success will attend his efforts so quickly.

Mr. Hampshire, Dairy Instructor for the Macleay and Hastings district:—

Yanco presents one of the best propositions, from a dairying point of view. I know of—that is, dairying on intelligent, economic lines. A farm with 50 acres irrigable and 150 acres non-irrigable land is a fine proposition, and should be able to milk from fifty to sixty cows without the slightest fear of shortage of feed. That cows do well at Yanco is undoubted. I saw Jerseys fat and sleek in September, and yielding very heavily. On the coast at this period of the year cattle look anything but well. The Yanco cattle have, therefore, the advantage of coming in in the spring in high-class condition.

FINE RESULTS—UNUSUAL BUTTER-FAT YIELDS.

(Extract from *Daily Telegraph*, a leading Sydney Newspaper, of 11th September, 1913.)

To the credit of Yellow Aster, a Jersey cow by the old Government bull Golden Lord, stands the distinction of having yielded 6,295 lb. milk, equal to 440½ lb. of butter, in the nine months ending 15th June last. Has the record ever been exceeded for the breed in Australia? This result was obtained at the Yanco Experiment Farm, and the cow was not housed or in any way specially treated with a view to

a record breaking. Yellow Aster was bred at Wagga Experiment Farm, and her performance speaks well for dairying on the Murrumbidgee, and on the Irrigation Area in particular. Good average results have been reported during the winter for cows on the Yanco Settlement, and Mr. O'Callaghan, chief of the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture, has not hesitated to express his conviction that dairying there is a better proposition than on almost any part of the coast.

The high tests put up by these cows, Jerseys and Shorthorns alike, appear to furnish material for research. It was noted about a year ago that the Jerseys on the Government Experiment Farm at Yanco tested extraordinarily high in comparison with Jerseys of the same breeding on the coast. Since then the testing done on the Irrigation Settlement has shown that cows of any breed there test exceptionally high, as compared with results usually experienced in coastal districts.

In August, 1914, Members of the Agricultural Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, inspected the Burrinjuck Dam and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas. The following are a few of the remarks made in addressing the settlers:—

**A RENOWNED ITALIAN PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING
SPEAKS—THE BURRINJUCK DAM AS WATER-
TIGHT AS A BOTTLE—IRRIGATION AN INSURANCE
FOR CROPS.**

Professor Luigi Luigi, D.Sc., M. Inst. C.E., Professor, University of Rome, and President Italian Society of Civil Engineers:—

I would like first of all to pay a tribute to the engineering skill with which the great dam at Burrinjuck has been constructed. Your Commissioner has been very modest. He has not told you that the great work, for the construction of which he is responsible, is one of the biggest dams of its kind in the world. I would like to congratulate him on the wonderfully successful way in which the work has been carried out. I have seen many such works, some of them of the greatest magnitude, but never in all my experience have I seen one that has been constructed so cleverly and with such complete success as the Burrinjuck Dam. I have been able to personally inspect it, and from my own investigation I am in a position to say that there is not the slightest passage of water through the wall, which is as watertight as a bottle. Mr. Wade deserves to be congratulated on the absolute success which has attended the carrying out of this great national work under his control.

In my country (Italy) irrigation is a very old practice. Twenty-five centuries ago the Etruscans, and twenty centuries ago the Romans, practised irrigation there. Our experience, which may be useful to you, is that if we apply to the soil a certain amount of moisture—not too much—we always solve the problem of saving crops. That is to say, irrigation is an insurance to put crops out of danger. Whether it rains much or little you always have a good crop which will pay for the expenditure necessary to produce it, and leave a margin of profit. In good years you have an excellent margin of benefit.

A VISITING AGRICULTURAL EXPERT FORESHADOWS THE SETTLERS' SURE SUCCESS.

Dr. Golding, Secretary, Agricultural Section, Science Congress to Australia, 1914, and Principal Research Chemist, Dairying Development Grant, Great Britain:—

I CANNOT help envying the people of Australia because they are looking forward into the future. They are working for generations to come, and not only are they working in that way, but they are looking forward with wonderful clear-sightedness. They are dealing with very great problems, as vast as the continent of which they are in possession. I have no doubt the settlers will be rewarded with success; I feel sure of this from the work that I see has been done. No one could go round and see the results already achieved in cultivating the land and growing crops without recognising the vast amount of labour that must have been expended on it, and feeling that the success of the undertaking is already assured. Just in the same way that one hears of the foresight that has been displayed one feels that everything will make for the success of the undertaking.

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURE TRACES PROGRESS—REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE LIFE HAPPY NOT LACKING.

Professor Watt, Occupant of the Chair of Agriculture, University of Sydney:—

THIS is my fourth visit to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, and each visit proves to be much more interesting than that preceding. I have not the advantage which Professor Luiggi has enjoyed of having been brought up in a country where artificial irrigation has been carried on for centuries. In my country (England) artificial irrigation is not practised. I have, however, travelled, and spent a few years

in South Africa, in an official position in the Agricultural Department. During my stay I had the privilege of inspecting and reporting on several irrigation schemes, and from what I have seen of irrigation in South Africa, and read of it in other parts of the world, I feel that one should be well satisfied with the conditions prevailing on the Murrumbidgee Areas. I know of no irrigation scheme where all the contributing factors are so good as here. Water is assured, the soil on the whole is good, and well suited for irrigation purposes, and requires very little grading. The land is cheap, and the water rate low. You, on these areas, do not realise how well off you are.

I am perfectly satisfied that this great scheme will be a huge success provided you do your part properly as settlers. From what I have seen of Australians tackling problems of different kinds, I have no hesitation in predicting that you will succeed, and solve the problem of making a good living, too, on these areas. It is true the people of New South Wales have not had any great experience in irrigation farming, but what has struck the visiting scientists most is the wonderful adaptability of Australians.

It seems to me that you who have settled at Yanco have every possible thing to make life happy. You have a beautiful climate, and in a few years' time you will have a choice of the most delicious fruits and vegetables. You are going to have one of the best-designed townships in Australia. You belong to what is, perhaps, the best thing in the world in the way of a colony, that is, a closely-settled irrigation colony. You are not lacking in the things that make life happy.

A COMPARISON WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

MR. P. DUFFY, of the firm of Duffy Bros. and Co., Limited, Fruit Importers and Exporters, in February, 1914, visited the Irrigation Areas. Mr. Duffy has been engaged in the fruit trade for over thirty years, and his time is about equally spent in California watching the firm's interest on the American side and in New South Wales. He is therefore in a unique position for comparing the conditions on the irrigation areas with those in California, as he knows both sides of the case so well. He stated that he was much impressed, and that in all probability he would make arrangements for planting here a large vineyard and orchard. The land of the irrigation areas reminded him very much of a district in Southern California, known as "Redlands." The name "Redlands" was given to this district on account of the colouration of the soil, and for fruit it was considered one of the best localities in Southern California. The climate was, if anything, warmer there than that here, while in

winter time the cold was even more extreme. In the San Joaquin Valley, for example at Lindsay or Porterville, the normal heat in summer is 110 degrees or 112 degrees, while in the winter time the temperature goes as low as 22 degrees.

Speaking of the varieties of fruit which he considered should do best on the area, Mr. Duffy stated that he had no hesitation in saying that Thompson's Seedless grapes should do remarkably well on the red soils which he had seen during his short stay. As far as sultanas were concerned, there should be plenty of sugar in the soil to render them excellent. As to the market for this fruit the heavy Australian duty should mean a lot to growers here. He stated that in California a good profit was made out of sultanas at 2½d. (5c.) per lb. The duty on dried fruit here is 3d. (6c.) per lb., and there is still a very large importation. He was emphatic in stating that there was still plenty of room on the Australian market for good quality sultanas. Lemons, Washington Navels, or Valencias, he had no doubt about.

Mr. Duffy expressed himself as astonished at the perfection shown by the present season of "Elberta" peaches at the Yanco Experiment Farm, and forecasted a great future for these trees on the Areas. He pointed out that the Australian canned peach is classed as an extra fancy article on the London market. The best quality of Australian canned peaches bring higher prices in the Old Country than any other variety. He was in London from April to June last and went closely into this matter.

For five years Mr. Duffy lived in the middle of the prune-growing section of California. In one season no less than 204,000,000 lb. of prunes were sent away from the little valley in which he resided. That year the best price for best quality "Golden Drop" prunes, in the Santa Clara Valley, was fixed at 7½ cents, slightly over 3½d. A good profit was shown on that figure, which was maintained for several years. It is now much better, but the figure is still well below the price being paid here for "Golden Drop" prunes, which is easily 9d. (18c.) landed in Sydney. Mr. Duffy's point is that if they can be grown for that in California there should still be room for more on the Australian market.

On the point as to whether the price at which dried fruit can be apparently sold profitably in California is affected in any way by cheaper rates for labour, Australian rates being undoubtedly high, Mr. Duffy was emphatic in stating that labour is as costly over there as it is here, if not more so.

As to his impressions regarding the work done on the Areas, Mr. Duffy stated that the amount of development was remarkable considering the short time the farms had been occupied.

In all his experience he had never seen an irrigation area anywhere which could compare, in his opinion, with the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, as far as its general layout was concerned. He considered it reflected the greatest credit on the engineers and others responsible for its design.

February, 1914.

ANOTHER EX-CALIFORNIAN COMPARES WATER CHARGES WITH THOSE OF WORLD'S IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

Mr. W. J. Allen, Fruit Expert and Irrigationist, Department of Agriculture, N.S.W., who has had experience in California and Mildura:—

A SIX-MONTHS' tour of the leading irrigation centres of the United States, Canada, Europe, and Egypt, from which he has just returned, has only served to strengthen the convictions of Mr. W. J. Allen, Government Fruit and Irrigation Expert, that New South Wales offers opportunities for the irrigationist second to none. Having renewed his acquaintance with the great irrigation areas of other lands, some of them still in the development stage, many of them thoroughly well established, and others with the history of thousands of years behind them, he is able to contrast with them our infant projects. Nothing has struck him more than the comparative cheapness of the land and water here. "I am quite satisfied that we have just as good prospects at Yanco," he remarked, "as I have seen America, Italy, or Egypt; but not until our settlers gain more experience in agriculture and irrigation will they realise the advantages they have at Yanco. It is only a question of finding out which are the best crops, and of growing them well. Success must follow."

Speaking generally on the question of water rates, Mr. Allen remarked that he considered the rates in most of the countries visited were high, and in most instances very much higher than in this State, or anywhere else in Australia. For instance, at Whittier (U.S.A.), the orchardists pay up to £6 (\$30) per acre for water. "And," he added, "they do not seem to miss it. They make so much out of the oranges and lemons that they can afford it." Just consider, however, by way of contrast, that the yearly water rate on the Murrumbidgee areas is 5s. (\$1.25) per acre, and even this low rate is further reduced during the early years of occupation by a settler.

January, 1914.

POULTRY WILL PAY.

Mr. Hadlington, Poultry Expert, Department of Agriculture:—

"IN my travels in this State, nowhere have I been so impressed with such opportunities for poultry-farming as are presented at the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Settlement" (says the well-known poultry expert in reviewing the prospects of the industry at Yanco). "The conditions that appeal to me as offering special inducements for poultry-keeping are many, but prominent amongst them are, first, the prospect of feeding cheaply; second, the ideal climate; and third, the uniformity of conditions."

January, 1914.

SOIL ANALYSIS—LANDS IN NO WAY EXHAUSTED.

Mr. F. B. Guthrie, Analytical Chemist of the Department of Agriculture, after exhaustive examination, prior to the lands being acquired, reported:—

THE soils analysed are extremely fertile, and by reason of their mechanical conditions eminently adapted for irrigation, while the natural drainage should be sufficient to render any elaborate artificial system unnecessary. The soils are well supplied with mineral plant-food. Limestone, in a nodular form, is distributed over the whole area, and the proportions of potash are quite exceptional. The soils are all extremely active bacterially, and nitrification proceeds rapidly and vigorously. They have a high capillary power, a point of great importance in determining their value for purposes of irrigated agriculture. The areas to be irrigated have, since their first settlement, been under pastoral occupation only, and have in no way been exhausted by cropping.

VITICULTURE HAS A GREAT FUTURE.

Professor M. Blunno, Government Viticultural Expert, Department of Agriculture, New South Wales:—

As a result of spending several days inspecting the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, Mr. M. Blunno, Government Viticultural Expert, came to the conclusion that it has a great future from a viticultural point of view.

He has expressed regret that his visit was not of longer duration to allow him to go more fully into certain matters of special interest to him, but he apparently saw enough during his stay to convince him that the area had a great future before it from a viticulturist's point of view.

April, 1914.

AN EXPERT'S FORECAST—THE WINERY OF AUSTRALIA.

To my idea there is nothing going to prevent the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas becoming the garden of the State of New South Wales. I came to the areas in August, 1913. I have been for sixteen years vine-growing in the Junee district, where my vineyard of 50 acres is well-known. The same applies to my 80-acre vineyard "Sunnyside," Corowa, which I have now sold.

I have been in the wine industry all my life, and have had large experience in exporting wines. This experience tells me that grape-growing for wine must be a success on the areas; in fact, I honestly believe it is going to be the winery of Australia. That is a big thing to say, but I feel sure it will be so, because we have the climate, the soil, and the water—all that a man could wish for.

I have put out practically 70 acres of my Mirrool farm in vines, with rows of oranges all round the roads and drives. I intend to plant the whole of the 100 acres—my block and my son's—with vines, less about 10 acres for the home, a distillery, winery, &c.

I do not altogether agree with M. Blunno's views as to the production of a very light wine. It may result in the grapes having to be given too much water, and for this reason I am pinning my faith to the "Black Shiraz," "Malbec," and "Brown Muscat" for red wines, for those varieties are, so to speak, "dual purpose" grapes. They make a wine suitable for the present Australian trade, and, if that be over-supplied, they are the bases of the wines for the export market. I have had a long experience of the English market and know that these grapes will produce a wine with an alcoholic content of 24 per cent. to 26 per cent. I have tested the grapes grown on the Experiment Farm at Yanco, and they carried sufficient saccharine to give that result.

For white wines I am planting the "Riesling," "White Hermitage," or "White Shiraz," "Baxter's Sherry," and one or two other kinds such as the "Chasselez." In table grapes I am going in for the "Dillonier" and the "Black Cornichon."

I could go on for half an hour stating what I intend to do in the way of developing my place, but I feel I have said enough to prove my confidence in the original statement I made that the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas are destined to be the garden of the State.

J. J. McWILLIAMS.

December, 1914.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC VISITOR.

Mr. A. C. Brown, of Goondarin Creek, Mount Keira, states:—

IN the first place, we wish to thank the Government officials for their kindness to us, and the readiness at all times to minister to our personal comfort, as well as to impart instruction and information which we all very much appreciated. We inspected the orchards, peach, apple, pear, grape, &c. What struck us most was the marvellous growth of the peach. The 5-year-old trees are very fine, and I saw the largest and best peaches I have ever seen, and also some of the finest grapes. From what I saw, the success of the stone fruit is assured, the soil seems to be most suitable for them. Apples do not seem to do as well there as they do with us here. They seem to me to have a deficient quality of flavour, as well as colour, and I notice that the soil is subsoiled. I would fancy the light loamy soil the most suitable for orchard purposes, especially apples. I think orchardists will do well to watch the Government Farm well for the trees that are thriving best. We travelled to Leeton, and saw a lot of young orchards. Some of these are being neglected; others are doing well, especially those where subsoiling was used.

I am very much impressed with the country for stone fruits, pears, and grapes. I have seen or know of none better in Australia. There you have level country, plenty of sunshine and water. *I have been growing fruit for the past forty years*, and have visited hundreds of orchards, and I have found that where any orchard is subsoiled, it not only produces the best fruit for colour, quality, and flavour, but prolongs the life of the trees considerably, and I would strongly advise the orchardists at Leeton to emulate the example of the experts at the Government Farm at Yanco, and closely follow their advice. We visited the dairy-farms next. The lucerne paddocks were a revelation to me, also the sorghum. I never saw better, and I think that dairying and pig-raising would be a very profitable undertaking.

The impression which I have formed about that part of the country is that it is an ideal one. I am very pleased at what I saw. I feel sure that with about £400 (\$2,000) to start with, an industrious man can have an independent living for himself and family for the rest of life.

April, 1914.

UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES—SCEPTICISM REGARDING GLOWING ACCOUNTS PUBLISHED IS DISPELLED.

Mr. J. J. Kincross, dairy-farmer, and director of the Wauchope Butter Factory, Jamberoo, writes:—

Jamberoo, 17th May, 1914.

The Secretary, Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, Sydney.

Dear Sir,

I wish, on behalf of myself and the party from Jamberoo who recently toured Yanco, to convey our thanks to the Commissioner, and all the officials, for the splendid treatment meted out to us, and the arrangements made to enable us to gain any information and to view the area, and also especially to Mr. H. R. Alexander, who personally conducted the tour.

The whole party were delighted with the trip, and are unanimous in the opinion that the possibilities of the Yanco Irrigation Scheme are unlimited, and, especially the branch of dairy-framing (in which we are all specially interested), has a splendid future before it.

I may add that the majority of the party before the trip were rather sceptical of the glowing accounts published about Yanco, but they have returned perfectly convinced that these accounts are rather under than over estimated.

Consequently my own private advice to any inquirer *re* Yanco would be—go and see for yourself, and Yanco itself will decide for you.

I am, &c.,

J. J. KINROSS.

WHAT BUSINESS MEN FEEL ABOUT THE PROJECT.

T. W. Stoddart, a Director of one of the largest warehouses in the State of New South Wales, writes to the Commissioner:—

32 and 34 York-street, Sydney, 20th May, 1914.

Dear Mr. Wade,

Thinking over the matter of our recent trip to Leeton, Mirrool, Yanco, &c., I cannot let it pass without thanking you and your staff for the great courtesy they extended to myself and others in the recent trip, and I was more than surprised, not to say pleased, at the

comprehensive grip of what looks to be one of the finest things possible for the development of such a large tract of territory for New South Wales.

The work done in the period seems to be immense; and as to the future prospects, the whole thing, provided it gets the right backing, not only with the settlers, but in educating the settlers, cannot be anything but a grand success.

Yours, &c.,

T. W. STODDART.

A LEADING NEWSPAPER (THE OLDEST IN AUSTRALIA) COMMENDS YANCO.

Representative of Sydney Morning Herald, 19th December, 1913.

THE dry conditions prevailing throughout the fruit-growing districts more than ever show by contrast the advantages of the culture of fruit under irrigation. Growers of stone fruit, particularly, have been complaining of the dry conditions and the consequent small size and poor quality of their fruit. During this time of the year, and through the Christmastide, stone-fruit growers are usually very busy. This season, however, there will be a heavy shortage, and growers will, if they so desire, have time to look around. For this purpose no better value could be gained than a few days' survey of the fruit-growing possibilities of the irrigation areas at Yanco and Mirrool.

Inspection of the many blocks devoted to fruit culture on these areas shows a pleasing state of affairs. On all sides the young trees, although only planted eighteen months ago, are showing up wonderfully well. That irrigation does not imply the almost continuous use of water, and that growth cannot be secured without this aid, is clearly proved on a block worked by Mr. W. J. Adams. Up to the present time, and during this season's growth, this grower has not found it necessary to water his young trees. By the adoption of good cultural methods, and constant attention to cultivation, the trees have done remarkably well. It is the grower's intention to give the first watering in the early part of the new year. When one inspects peach and apricot trees on the lighter soils that have made 6 to 7 feet of growth in height, and 3 and 4 feet in width, it is at once realised how fertile the soil is. Many blocks are worked by settlers who are practically new chums, but from attention to the advice tendered by the instructors of the Commissioner their trees are coming along nicely. Cumberland and coastal growers can make up their mind that, if they are looking for a field for extension or to give their sons

a start, the opportunities on the area to those with experience and a fair amount of capital, are excellent.

Yanco to-day presents a fine appearance. On all sides can be seen the farmers at work, busy harvesting their hay crops. This is a big consideration from the fruitgrowers' point of view, as the growing of feed for stock keeps down expense materially. The young crops of lucerne, not twelve months old, show a splendid stand, and the uniformity of growth is pleasing. Driving for miles around the settlement there are very few patchy places to be noted. The grower of fruit in many districts has the drawback of waiting for the trees to come into bearing. On the area one can grow potatoes, onions, and lucerne crops, such, for instance, as are the mainstay of many farmers in the Maitland district. A good crop is practically assured on the area, with the fertile soil, the regular sunshine, and the moisture when required. There can be no doubt that every month now will see things in a better shape. The experience of the previous seasons will be lessons of guidance for future work, the result being increased production.

To drive around the area and see the wonderful progress young trees are making naturally imbues one with confidence in the ultimate fructivity of the trees at present growing. This is confirmed by a visit to the Government Farm established at the Yanco Siding. Growing here is an orchard of some 60 acres, so that it is no garden plot. No better illustration of the great future awaiting those who settle on the area could be possibly furnished. The orchard and vineyard are only 5 years of age. As has been seen around the area, the growth is most vigorous, but the satisfying part is the cropping.

After surveying the whole of the fruits growing, one comes away strongly impressed, and with a desire to pass the conviction on. Now that cheaper rates are available on the railway during the holiday time, those anxious to get a move on the land are strongly urged to visit the area without delay. Seeing is believing, and, apart from the glorious stand the fruit-trees and crops are making, there are many other conditions which are of value in selecting this district for settling in. School facilities and the opportunities of good roads, the communication and the advantages of a large population in place of the unenviable isolation accompanying country life, all offer advantages which are not obtainable in many districts. The Mirrool area is not so advanced as Yanco. Settlers are busy clearing and preparing their blocks for next season's planting. Vines, prunes, and peaches will be largely planted in this part. This is mainly on account of the promise of a cannery and distillery for the processing of the fruit.

A PROPHECY FULFILLED.

"GOSSIP," OF THE "SYDNEY STOCK AND STATION JOURNAL," ANOTHER LEADING SYDNEY NEWS-PAPER, IS REMINISCENT.

ONE day recently I went off with a party of metropolitan journalists to see the Yanco Irrigation Scheme, and when we reached Narrandera (353 miles from Sydney) I met a man. I told him where we were all going, and he said: "That ought to interest you, after the book you wrote on irrigation." The book was "Australian Gossip and Story," published eighteen years ago. It talked about Egypt and the Riverina, and the irrigation of the Nile Delta, and it said: "The wild strength of the Riverina has not yet been harnessed to the car of civilisation, nor have the engineering giants of the earth taken thought of the way in which to do it. But so surely as the Pyramids of Egypt are crumbling to decay, so surely is the future of the mighty Riverina written in God's book of fate, and it will be a mighty future. To-day the engineers are trying to arrange an irrigation scheme for Egypt which will make the barren wastes blossom as of old, when the Shepherd Kings ruled the Nile Valley. They talk of building a dam at Assouan, in the Nile, and another near Cairo, at a cost of £1,600,000, and the results, they say, would repay the outlay by 40 per cent. per annum. Spend that amount on the Riverina, and it would repay the outlay much more richly; but the day of the Riverina is not yet. The markets of the world are far distant from us, and our population is very small and very foolish." If another man had written it I would have called him a prophet, or the son of a prophet.

The book further tells how the great Riverina plain was formed by the rivers of old, during countless thousands of years, and then says: "To-day, on the great Riverina plains, there are a few towns, far, far apart. There are a few million sheep, and there are many millions of rabbits. There is a little cultivation, but the world is not yet lacking the bread which will come some day from the great rich deep virgin flats of the Riverina. Round about Uardry (that was a station I visited twenty years ago) there is a garden planted on the flat plain, down by the banks of the Murrumbidgee. That garden is watered as would be a town garden in a scorching summer, and it shows what the earth of the Riverina plains will grow. There are such flowers as are scarcely seen elsewhere on earth, for the soil is good, the sun is strong, and the air is pure, and the Riverina gardeners will yet surprise the world." And the Yanco Irrigation Scheme is on the Riverina. Two hundred and fifty thousand acres of Riverina land are going to be irrigated from the Murrumbidgee, and my prophecies are coming true. Says the book: "Once the time arrives

for the engineers to come to the Riverina, as they have now gone to Assouan and Cairo on the Nile, then the great plains will produce food for countless millions of human beings When the Murrumbidgee is lifted up and shed over the great plains by the hand of man, then the soil will give such a return as even the Nile lands never gave in their palmiest days. We grumble and growl at our position to-day; we moan about hard times, but we are dwelling in the midst of such undeveloped wealth as the boldest dreamers never yet dreamed to speculate upon. The Riverina will be the world's granary, with its soil of river silt that has been accumulating for ages past; with its sunshine, its rivers, and its wonderful fertility."

That was all written about twenty years ago, and published in book form in 1895; and now, twenty years after, I revisit the old spot, where once were but sheep runs and rabbit burrows, and see what the engineers have done, and I am almost overpowered with the magnificence of the conception. We, as a people, are going to spend £5,000,000 (\$25,000,000) on this scheme, have already spent £2,500,000 (\$12,500,000) on it, and some people growl at it, sore-heads, malcontents, short-sighted grumblers; but it is the greatest work ever done in Australia.

This Yanco Irrigation Scheme means the irrigation of 250,000 acres of land, and the cultivation of millions of acres of "dry land," as they call the non-irrigated area. It means that the New South Wales Government is going to spend £5,000,000 (\$25,000,000) on this irrigation area, and it means that it is going to be an Australian job from start to finish.

What political party initiated the scheme? All of them. It is not a matter of party politics at all. It is a great, broad, national movement, quite outside of party politics or sectarianism.

Yanco is 367 miles south-west from Sydney, and when the metropolitan press went out there we went 24 miles past Yanco to Wilbriggie, and then drove some 20 or 14 miles to Mirrool. When we got there, the settlers were having "sports," running and jumping, and all sorts of things incidental to country sports, and we had a look at them. They were a fine crowd.

An old journalist said: "I have a son who wants to go on the land. Can I get a selection here for him?" Another journalist said: "I have two boys who want to go on the land, but they are not quite old enough. Can I secure farms for them here now?" It was 30 miles by motor from Mirrool to Yanco, and we had a look at the land all the way. We saw the canals, we saw the country, and the timber and the roads, and we realised the vastness of the scheme. We saw the houses the Commissioner builds for the people, from £150 (\$750) to

£400 (\$2,000), to be paid off in twelve years; we saw the 50-acre farms outside Leeton (Yanco is the siding, Leeton is the new town, 3 miles away). We saw the 10-acre farms for intense culture, and we saw the 2-acre farms for the working men, and we drove into the new town in the darkness, and realised that we were in a new world. Twenty years ago I was here in a lonesome sheep country, and a few years ago Sir Samuel McCaughey started a system of irrigation for his own place, Yanco; but now, a larger, grander, national scheme has taken its place.

TWENTY YEARS AFTER—A CHANGE IN THE LANDSCAPE.

Town Hall, Fremantle,
12th September, 1914.

Dear Sir,

Having returned safely home to Western Australia, I desire to write you expressing my heartfelt thanks for the extreme kindness and courtesy which you were good enough to show me, and the facilities which you provided, enabling me to see the splendid work that is being carried on in the interests of irrigation in New South Wales. I was greatly struck with the magnitude and boldness of the undertaking at the Burrinjuck, and then to visit that part of the Riverina with which I had been familiar some twenty years ago as an almost barren area and to find portion of it converted into such a beautiful settlement, was indeed the most interesting part of my visit to the Eastern States. The officers both at the reservoir and at the Yanco spared no pains in showing me round.

Again thanking you for your kindness, I beg to remain,

Yours most sincerely,

HENRY THOS. HAYNES.

THE GREAT POWERS OF IRRIGATION ILLUSTRATED AT MIRROOL AND YANCO—PROSPECTS OF MARKET FOR CANNED PRODUCTS.

ENTERING the irrigation settlements of Yanco and Mirrool after a summer railway journey the contrast with the country just passed through is most notable. The traveller leaves the brown grass of the pastoral land and enters a land of luscious green, along whose well-formed roads and by-roads the motor-car travels for miles. We at

once perceive the wondrous transformation which irrigation has accomplished and the possibilities which lie in the future. As we pass through Yanco settlement we are surrounded with paddocks of oats and lucerne ready for cutting, and we meet dairy-houses for milking kine. Here and there we pass orchards in their first bearing of stone fruit or citrus trees in brilliant foliage. Proceeding towards Mirrool, which is about 30 miles from Yanco, the orchards predominate, and are finding most favour. So the scenery changes from the sparkling verdure of the closely-growing lucerne and oats, over which the wind sends tremulous ripples, to the darker hue and hardly less luxuriant growth of peach and apricot and plum trees. As a business proposition these settlements offer to a man with some knowledge of irrigation inducements which are unsurpassed in Australia. The figures which are already set out enable a comparison of costs to be made by any farmer familiar with other irrigation schemes. At Yanco conditions are most suitable for fodder crops and for dairying. When £6 10s. (\$32.50) a ton at the railway siding can be got for lucerne, which is cut five times a year, it can be imagined what profit the lucerne-growers are realising just now. This, of course, is exceptional owing to the dry time being experienced in the sheep-raising area surrounding the settlement. But even in normal times £4 (\$20) is obtainable, ensuring a handsome return. At Mirrool conditions of soil and situation favour fruit-growing. For canned fruits there is an expanding market in Australia. This is clear from the fact that the 2-lb. tin of canned fruit, half of which is syrup, is sold retail at 10d. (20c.) to 1s. (24c.) each, and in wholesale lots at 8s. (\$1.75) to 10s. (\$2.50) per dozen tins.

There is a long way to go before overproduction occurs, and when that does occur there are opportunities of trade with South Africa and the East Indies. What especially strikes the journalist who has knowledge of some country conditions is the provision for domestic comfort in the settlements equalling the comforts of the city. Electric light and electric power are available, and after returning from a day's work in the field there is water for the bath, which need not be stinted.

H. K. WILLIAMS.

Sydney Herald Office, 19th October, 1914.

VISITING PARTIES TELL BUT ONE STORY.

Agricultural Bureau of New South Wales,

Forest Creek Branch,

Frogmore, 21st September, 1914.

The Secretary, Irrigation Commission,

29 Elizabeth-street, Sydney.

Dear Sir,

I must say that the members of our party to Leeton were very much impressed with the work so far done on the area. They consider that the area has a big future before it. Several members of the party are considering the idea of giving the area a trial, as a means of livelihood, and I have no doubt that when blocks become available there will be an applicant or two from this district. I am one who is contemplating a venture on the area.

Under separate cover I am forwarding a Burrowa paper* containing an account of our journey, and with some observations at the conclusion of my idea of the area. The result is that another party is being organised for next month. The members of our party desire me to convey their thanks to you for your kindness in fixing up the railway passes.

The officers at Leeton showed us the utmost consideration and courtesy.

Yours faithfully,

WALTER THOMPSON, Hon. Sec.

**Burrowa News, 4th September, 1914.*

My advice to any person desirous of settling on the land is "First go and have a look at Leeton and Mirrool, where every information you want will be given you." Settlers are assisted in every possible way by the Commissioner, expert advice in any branch of farming will be readily given by the officers there for the purpose, and with a splendid water supply droughts should be an unknown quantity. To any person who takes up land at Leeton or Mirrool, and will work, success is assured. Many men from Broken Hill, Sydney, and other places, who know absolutely nothing of farming, are on the way to competence at the area. However, a man must not have the idea that he can go down there and make a fortune by turning the water on the land. Much work must be done, and much must be learned, but for those who will work and learn, the reward will be great, I am sure.

A LEADING NEWSPAPER MAN (since specially selected from all Australian journalists to accompany the Australian Military Expeditionary Forces) POINTS OUT AN ADVANTAGE AS TO MARKETS.

It has taken nearly twenty-five years for Australians to discover what irrigation is. The impression that it consisted in flooding earth with water was responsible for many years of difficulties. They were hard knocks that gradually taught Australian irrigators the science of their business, but they have succeeded of late years beyond all the hopes of ten years back. You have only to go to Mildura and see 7,000 men living on an area that would not previously have supported 700 sheep—7,000 people living in some of the most comfortable and prettiest homesteads in Australia—to realise what skilful irrigation means in this continent. I do not claim to be able to judge of these crops as an expert, but when I see a community living on little properties of from 10 to 30 acres in homesteads as comfortable as those of 20,000-acre runs, the farmers in many cases owning motor-cars and their wives and families not infrequently away on a tour round the world, I can judge whether that business is a paying one. Those men have learnt to save water, rather than spend it, to drain their land, to fertilise their crops and to market it, and the result is complete success. I have not the least doubt that within half a century not only the 300,000 acres at Yanco, but every acre in Australia on to which the water of our inland rivers can reasonably be poured will have been taken up and irrigated. The irrigator in Australia can always count on two great facts: Firstly, that the season at which Australia is producing is the opposite of that at which the Northern Hemisphere (which contains all the great markets) is producing; and, secondly, that in this country of recurrent droughts, the misfortune of others goes a long way towards making the fortune of the irrigator.

C. W. BEAN.

October, 1914.

YANCO, THE APOTHEOSIS OF IRRIGATION.

IN the good old days of the roaring fifties when adventurous spirits from the four quarters of the globe trekked to Australia and dug up gold by the bucketful, we used to say that "one-third of Australia was good for farming, one-third good for grazing, and one-third good for nothing." But in these enlightened days we know that one-third is good for small farming, one-third good for scientific wheat-raising, and the other third good for depasturing our flocks and herds. One potent word, "Irrigation" has wrought this welcome change, and

Yanco is the apotheosis of irrigation. I have travelled Australia from Sydney to the Swan and from Darwin to the Bight, and I bank heavily on the prospects before irrigationists in this new land of great opportunities.

OLIVER K. HOGUE,

Late *Sydney Morning Herald*, now Australian Expeditionary Force.
October, 1914.

A TRANSFORMATION SCENE—INEVITABLE EARLY TROUBLES OVERCOME.

To one who for the first time revisits the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area since the establishment of the works, the change is indeed arresting.

Where a few thousand sheep pastured precariously on these vast semi-arid plains, may now be seen smiling homesteads, vigorous young orchards, dairy-farms, nurseries, schools, factories, and electrically-lighted, water-supplied townships.

The troubles inevitable in the infancy of such large undertakings have been overcome, and the growing settlement is now a credit to its designer, the pride of the settlers, and an ever-increasing source of satisfaction to the State.

W. T. DICK (Member of the State Parliament),
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

October, 1914.

THE COMFORT OF IRRIGATION FARMING.

THIS great national undertaking furnishes an object-lesson as to what is possible under irrigation. Here the settler is able, with a comparatively small area and a regular supply of water, to live in comfort and to bring up a family amidst decent surroundings. Freed from the all-absorbing dread of drought, and the isolation co-existent with our back-country settlement, he is able to command all those civilising influences which are usually only associated with those who live in or adjacent to large centres of population. The social life on this area is one of its marked features looked at from every view point success is assured.

JOHN TRAVERS (Member of State Parliament, Sydney),
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

October, 1914.

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